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FOR C, PGM, PGM/T, PGM/RC, VOA P, EU SEVENSON

STATE FOR EUR/SE

DEPT PLS PASS NADINA JACOBSEN OF SENATOR PERCY'S STAFF AND  
ACTING SFRC STATFF DIRECTOR SCOTT COHREN

E.O. 12356: ./A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SENATOR PERCY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT

SENATOR PERCY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT HIS SEPT 6  
DEPARTURE FROM CYPRUS:  
BEGIN TEXT. AFTER TWO WEEKS IN THIS LOVELY COUNTRY, I FEEL  
VERY MUCH AS HOME. I HAVE EXPERIENCED AT FIRST HAND THE GREAT  
PERSONAL WARMTH AND HOSPITALITY FOR WHICH CYPRIOTS ARE NOTED  
AROUND THE WORLD, AND WHICH HAVE MADE OUR STAY HERE VERY  
PLEASANT AND MOST MEMORABLE. I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH  
TO HAVE VISITED MANY MAJOR TOWNS AND DISTRICTS OF CYPRUS, AND  
HAVE FOUND EACH CHARMING AND INTENSELY INTERESTING IN ITS OWN  
WAY. PARTICULARLY MEMORABLE WERE THE WONDERFUL RECEPTIONS  
ACCORDED US DURING OUR VISITS TO THE VILLAGES OF STROUMBI AND  
KOUKLIA AND THE LARGER CITIES SUCH AS NICOSIA AND PHPHOS. WE  
WERE ALSO GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE SENSE OF HISTORY ONE FINDS  
EVERYWHERE IN CYPRUS, AND BY THE UNIQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND  
ARTIFACTS WE HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF STUDYING.  
DURING OUR VISIT, WE HAVE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME  
DISCUSSING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WITH  
THE LEADERSHIP OF BOTH COMMUNITIES, AS WELL AS WITH  
REPRESENTATIVES OF REFUGEE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE GREEK  
CYPRIOT MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE. THESE DISCUSSIONS  
HAVE BROUGHT HOME ONCE AGAIN THE DIFFICULTIES AND  
COMPLEXITIES OF THE PROBLEM, AS WELL AS THE DEPTH OF  
HUMAN TRAGEDY STILL BEING EXPERIENCED. IN THESE  
TALKS, I REPEATEDLY SENSED A GREAT DEAL OF FRUSTRATION  
AT THE SLOW PACE OF PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLUTION OF THE  
CYPRUS PROBLEM. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT  
BOTH COMMUNITIES REALIZE THE ONLY PATH TO TO A LASTING  
SETTLEMENT LIES THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THEM.  
THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, THROUGH HIS SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE AMBASSADOR GOBBI, TO RESOLVE THE  
CYPRUS PROBLEM IN A MANNER THAT IS EQUITABLE AND  
PERMANENT. SHORTLY AFTER HE TOOK OFFICE LAST YEAR,  
PRESIDENT REAGAN INFORMED THE CONGRESS THAT A JUST RE-  
SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF CYPRUS WILL REMAIN A PRIORITY  
FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION. THIS CONTINUES TO BE THE PRESIDENT'S  
EARNEST DESIRE, WHICH I FULLY SUPPORT.  
CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM REMAINS HIGH.

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SINCE 1974, CONGRESS HAS APPROPRIATED APPROXIMATELY \$145 MILLION IN RELIEF ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE RECENTLY BEGAN EARMARKING A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THIS ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE CHILDREN OF REFUGEES AND OTHER NEEDY PERSONS TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES. I UNDERSTAND SIXTY GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT STUDENTS ARE BEGINNING THEIR STUDIES UNDER THIS PROGRAM AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES THIS MONTH. LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS ALSO STILL REQUIRES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE A STATUS REPORT EVERY 60 DAYS ON PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. DESPITE THESE EVIDENCES OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, HOWEVER, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CAN AND SHOULD GIVE CYPRUS AN EVEN HIGHER PRIORITY. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRESSURES OF THE "8.338-53)6 7483.5" HAVE BEEN SO GREAT IN RECENT MONTHS THAT WE IN THE UNITED STATES MAY BE REMINDED THAT CYPRUS STANDS AS AN UNRESOLVED PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED. I PLEDGE TO GO TO WORK IMMEDIATELY UPON MY RETURN, WORKING WITH LIKE-MINDED COLLEAGUES IN BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO RAISE THE PRIORITY OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM ON THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA.

BEFORE CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS ONE SPECIFIC PROBLEM WHICH CONCERNS US ALL GREATLY, AND THAT IS THE EDUCATION OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. THERE IS NO UNIVERSITY IN CYPRUS, MEANING THAT ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SENT ABROAD AT GREAT EXPENSE TO STUDY, TOO MANY OF THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST NEVER RETURN TO HELP BUILD THE FUTURE CYPRUS. ALSO, GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE THEREBY DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY OF GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER AT AN EARLY AGE IN AN ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT. A WHOLE NEW GENERATION IS GROWING UP IN CYPRUS WHICH HAS NEVER KNOWN ANYTHING EXCEPT DIVISION. I UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH ANY BICOMMUNAL PROJECT FACES IN GETTING STARTED IN CYPRUS. BUT I BELIEVE THAT THESE DIFFICULTIES, WITH GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES, CAN AND MUST BE SOLVED. IF THE TWO COMMUNITIES CAN AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSITY IN CYPRUS FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CYPRIOTS, I HAVE PLEDGED TO DEVOTE MY BEST EFFORTS TO ENSURING THAT IT WOULD HAVE THE NECESSARY INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. I BELIEVE THAT SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSITY COULD OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES AND HELP ENCOURAGE SUCCESS IN OTHER AREAS. IT WOULD HELP ADD THE MISSING ELEMENT OF CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF CYPRUS CAN BE SOLVED ONE BY ONE.

I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THE GRATITUDE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS FOR THE CRUCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY CYPRUS TO THE SUCCESSFUL DISENGAGEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF PLO FORCES FROM BEIRUT. THIS HUMANITARIAN ACTION SAVED MANY LIVES AND HELPED RESOLVE A DANGEROUS CRISIS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO NOTE MY PERSONAL RESPECT FOR THE NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY OF CYPRUS.

IN CLOSING, LET ME EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AND THE CYPRIOT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR HAVING INVITED ME TO CYPRUS. THE VISIT HAS BEEN BOTH VERY INFORMATIVE AND HIGHLY ENJOYABLE. WE HAVE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW MORE INTIMATELY THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF CYPRUS.

END TEXT. HOWARD  
END OF MESSAGE

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